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ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA,

ON OPENING THE

COURSE OF LECTURES,

box 3, 17th October, 1837.

BY PAUL F. EVE, M.D.

Professor of Surgery, and Dean of the Faculty, Medical College of Geo.

29632

AUGUSTA, GA.

Printed by Gurnea & Tupper

McIntosh & Co.

1838



## ADDRESS.



*Address to the Class, on opening the Course of Lectures in the Medical College of Georgia, the 17th of October, 1837. By PAUL F. EVE, M. D., Professor of Surgery and Dean of the Faculty.*

*Gentlemen :*

It has been thought proper, under the present organization of our School of Medicine, to deliver but one public lecture, instead of occupying, as heretofore, the first week by an Introductory on each day ; and through the kindness of my colleagues, I have been made the humble instrument of welcoming you, at this time, to the Medical College of Georgia. In the name of the Faculty, whom you have honored by your presence on this interesting occasion, I bid you welcome, thrice welcome, within these walls, dedicated to the science of Medicine. We would hail you, as youthful but zealous votaries, aspiring after the honors of a profession, whose exercise is the preservation of life and health ; whose office is the doing of good : and as this hour may be supposed to have been set apart to initiate you to the advantages held out to students by our College, nothing

seems more appropriate than to devote it to the brief consideration of this object. This too will enable you to decide, if we have voluntarily assumed solemn responsibilities without due deliberation, or have assumed important duties without the requisite preparations for their faithful performance.

The early history of the Medical College of Georgia, like that of many individual enterprises, the success of which has so greatly distinguished our country among the nations of the earth, presents a striking example of what may be accomplished by industry and perseverance. On this day five years ago, the first Introductory lecture was delivered in the Masonic Hall of this city. We were then without a suitable Building and almost alike destitute of Anatomical Museum, Chemical Apparatus, Library, and nearly all other conveniences for carrying on our College operations. As early, however, as 1827, the idea was suggested by a member\* of the present Faculty, of establishing a Medical Academy in this place. In the winter of 1830, a charter was granted by the Legislature of this State to the Medical College of Georgia, empowering its Trustees to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon those, who had complied with the requisitions demanded by the most respectable Medical Schools of the United States. In the summer of 1832, the Faculty was organized by the election of six Professors, five of whom still hold office in the College; and during the winter of 1832, '33, the first regular course of lectures was delivered in two rooms, temporarily fitted up in the city Hospital, to a class of twenty-seven students, four of whom were graduated at the first commencement.

From the Legislature of 1833, we received a donation of ten thousand dollars, and from the City Council of Augusta, five thousand more, by guaranteeing medicines and medical services to the Hospital for ten years. With the fifteen thousand dollars thus obtained, this edifice was erected on this lot, generously ceded to us by the Trustees of Richmond Academy. During the winter of 1833, '34, the class in attendance amounted to thirty, and at the second commencement, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon fifteen approved Candidates.

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\*Fr. Antony.

Early in the Spring of 1834, the Faculty raised, upon their own responsibility the sum of ten thousand dollars, and dispatched to Europe one of the Professors,\* to purchase an Anatomical Museum, Chemical Apparatus, Surgical Cabinet, &c. for the use of the College. At the unanimous request of the Faculty, the Trustees appointed this year the present Professor† of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy, Adjunct to the Professorship then existing of Anatomy and Physiology. The class of '34, '35, numbered thirty-seven, and its Graduates fifteen.

Aware of the defects, and the want, especially of system, in the course of instruction pursued in the Medical Schools of the United States, and feeling the necessity of some uniform standard of qualifications for Candidates for the honors of the profession, in May, 1835, our Faculty respectfully addressed a Circular to every Medical College of our country, calling their attention to these subjects, and recommending a Convention, to be held at Washington City to correct these evils, and to adopt such other measures as might be calculated to promote the general welfare of the medical Profession. The number of delegates to be sent from each School, and their time of meeting, were left, in compliment, to the University of Pennsylvania, the oldest medical Institution in the United States. Her Faculty, however, declined taking any interest in these objects, and our proposition, which had been favorably considered by some of the other Medical Colleges, consequently failed in effecting any good end. Posterity will judge of the liberality and wisdom of that act, which has deliberately rejected medical reformation at the present day, and in a country too, where from the grossest abuses in medicine, its practice has almost ceased to be honorable among men. Spirits of Shippen, Rush and Wistar, and thou time-honored Father of American Surgery,‡ upon whom have your mantles fallen!

But we rejoice to know that the spirit of reformation is aroused in our land. A voice has just been heard in a distant section of our country, loudly proclaiming the necessity for a

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\*Dr. Dugas.

†Dr. Newton, now Professor of Anatomy, (1838)

‡Dr. Physick died the 15th Dec. 1837.

National Medical Society,\* and but recently, the abuses in the present system of Medical Education, have been forcibly presented to the Legislature of our sister state, by one of the distinguished Professors of her Medical College.† In fact, so urgent is the demand for amelioration in the course of instruction, now generally adopted in the medical Schools of the United States, that a prolongation of the ordinary term of lecturing, is already proposed in more than one of them. And may it not be expected, that when the time for action arrives on this all-important subject, as, come it must, and will be prayed for most devoutly by every friend of the Profession and of well regulated Society, this College, which breathed the spirit of reformation in her very infancy, will not then be found wanting?

A second successful application for pecuniary aid, was made by our Trustees to the Legislature of 1835, and most gratifying to every friend of science, their most sanguine hopes were fully realized. The state generously gave to our College, all her interest in the premium resulting from the sale of the increased stock of the Bank of Augusta, valued at twenty-five thousand dollars. This has at once relieved the Faculty, liquidated every debt, and provided a fund for contingent expenses.

Owing to the disappointment experienced, from the College Building not having been completed agreeably to contract, and to our being deprived of the valuable services of the present Professor of Physiology and Pathological Anatomy by his departure for Europe,‡ the class of '35, '36, amounted only to thirty-two and its Graduates to eight. This we are happy to say is the only exception to the annual increase of the number of Students in our Institution, the only check to her gradual prosperity she has received; and this evidently arose from the causes just assigned. At the last session, with but six Professors, there was a flattering increase to forty-six, being a much larger class than has ever yet been in attendance here. The number who received the Degree last April was fifteen.

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\*See Boston Med. & Surg. Journal, also Southern Med. & Surg. Journal.

†Dr. Moultrie.

‡Dr. Newton, now Professor of Anatomy, (1838.)



Since the past winter, the Trustees of our College have been actively engaged in advancing the interest, and enhancing the value of the course of Instruction, by important additions to the regular lectures. They have, as you are all aware, created two new Professorships, and we honestly believe have been truly fortunate in the election of gentlemen of first rate abilities, who we feel fully persuaded, will give entire satisfaction to the respectable and numerous Class now assembling here. There are eight Professorships in this College, on as many distinct branches of medicine, a number surpassed by none, and found existing in only one other of the medical Institutions of our favored country; and we challenge a better division of the departments of the science in any one of them.

By a very recent ordinance of the City Council of Augusta, the Hospital has been placed in a very respectable condition, and upon a much better system; offering now inducements not only to the sick poor of our city, but to all, who may require medical or surgical aid, for a very trifling consideration. This charitable Institution is entirely under the professional care of the Faculty, and I need scarcely add, your attention will be directed to all the interesting cases, which may be introduced into it during the course of lectures.

Besides completing a neat fire-proof house for the purposes of practical Anatomy, entirely apart from the main Building, the Library has been arranged for the reception of books, and many valuable additions have been made to it and the Chemical Laboratory. We have also commenced fitting up an extensive room for a general Museum, and in another one, is placed a grand solar and a superior compound Microscope. An order is now on its way to Europe, and which would have been sent in the spring, but for the difficulty of effecting exchange between the two Countries, for a large accession to our already increasing Library.

In January, 1836, the prospectus of a Southern Medical and Surgical Journal was announced by the Faculty of our College, and in June following the first number was issued from the press. The failure of all similar experiments in this section of our Country, and even that so recently of the Southern Review, in Charleston, have not prevented us from employing our feeble efforts, to be useful in this way, to our day and generation. We would not bury even the one talent, which may have been

committed to our care. The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal has already entered upon its second volume, with an increasing patronage, not only encouraging to its undertakers, but at once securing its complete success.

From this hasty collection of facts connected with the origin and progress of the Medical College of Georgia, you are capable of forming some idea of her actual condition. In the brief space of five years, what has she not effected? What lacks she now for the medical Education of the youth of our Country?—We point you to this Edifice, with its classic exterior and ample accommodation within, alike an ornament to our City and State, and a monument to their munificence, acknowledged by all who have examined it, to be the most appropriate and convenient for Medical purposes in the United States—to that Anatomical Museum, surpassed perhaps by none in our country, for the beauty and usefulness of its preparations—to that Chemical Laboratory, rich in its apparatus for the performance of experiments, to illustrate the various subjects connected with this science—to that Library, containing already many rare and valuable publications, both in the ancient and modern languages—see too that Journal, monthly teeming with original communications of an interesting character, and comprising the latest important intelligence connected with the profession—behold her Professors, already increased to eight, and now prepared to enter upon their respective duties—but above all, see her sixty Graduates, binding up the wounded and healing the diseased in our Southern and Western States; and when you reflect that all these are the fruit of but five year's labor, what, we ask, may not be promised in the future career of this School of Medicine? What has been left undone to render her a blessing to our people?

But this is not all. Connected with the history of the Medical College of Georgia, there is one circumstance which has distinguished her from all similar Institutions of our Country, and upon which perhaps her success thus far has mainly depended. In her very infancy, she has dared to differ from all other Schools in the United States, in the length of the course of instruction.—This may be considered her peculiar and characteristic feature. While the term of lectures in other Colleges is of about four months continuance, the session here is nearly six. Instead of occupying the whole day in delivering lectures for a term of



three and a half to four months, there are but four hours daily, appropriated here to public instruction, and the course is continued from the third Monday in October to the first of April. All the lectures are presented to the Students in the morning, and the after part of the day may be exclusively devoted to demonstrations in Anatomy, and the evening to study. The decided advantages of this plan of instruction in Medicine, must be admitted by all. No one who will reflect on the subject can for a moment hesitate. To a beginner in our science, (and what else are Students,) four lectures daily are as much as his mind can possibly digest; and the regular division of the time, to public instruction, to improvement in practical anatomy and to reading, is infinitely superior to the old system of six successive discourses, and these too, delivered as they are, on different branches of the Profession. The prolonged course, alone, it must be admitted, allows time for minute investigations and manual operations, or study and reflection, for the many various and important preparations for the successful practice of Medicine. It is certainly not alone by *hearing* lectures on a given subject, that we can derive the most profitable and intimate knowledge of it, but we must thoroughly examine and attentively consider it for ourselves. This which is true of all arts and sciences, is especially so of Medicine. It must be patiently studied for years by all who wish to comprehend the length and breadth, the height and depth of its usefulness to suffering humanity. If the science of Medicine is not secured by the purchase of a patent right, neither is it to be acquired by even the faithful attendance on two short courses of lectures. And it is gratifying for us to know that the protracted system adopted here, is recommending itself in spite of self-interest and prejudice to other Schools, while it has received the uniform and unqualified approbation of our Alumni.\*

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\*Notwithstanding the Trustees of the Medical College of Georgia have been compelled, from the want of co-operation on the part of other Schools of Medicine, to forego the advantages of the prolonged Course of Lectures, they are still advocates for it. They believe it offers the best system of instruction to Students. Necessity has alone forced them to the change, (at least for a time,) from six to four months, the period adopted in other Institutions of our country. The Faculty will, however, make all the amends they can for the shortening of the course, by rendering their Lectures as *demonstrative* as possible, addressing the eye as well as the ear.

Among the advantages held out to Students of medicine in this place, not the least important is that offered by the present organization of the Medical Society of Augusta. This Body holds its meetings every two weeks in the library room, to which all connected with the Profession are admitted, and the regular business is the reading of an Essay and its discussion, in which each member successively engages. An opportunity is thus afforded of either confirming the truth presented, or of correcting an error which may have been committed in the lecture-room ; while the attention of all present is necessarily directed to the elucidation of one particular subject.

Besides the advantages presented here, by the prolongation of the ordinary term of lecturing, which, if it be not superior, at least obviates one serious objection not only experienced, but even complained of by other medical Schools, and those already enumerated, there are other circumstances which should induce you to obtain your medical Education at the South. Apart from that State pride which every true patriot must ever feel glowing in his bosom, and of that duty which every good citizen owes to the encouragement of home Institutions, where under heaven can you so properly investigate the diseases peculiar to ourselves ? In no other place do they occur with precisely the same type, and hence the utter impossibility of examining them elsewhere to the same advantage. A great deal, it will be confessed, has been written on diseases peculiar to each climate, but without exaggerating the importance of investigating them where they prevail endemically, there is one view of this subject which exemplifies not only the propriety, but even the very necessity of studying them at home. Granting that Medicine as a science is based upon certain general and well established principles, the correct and intimate knowledge of which is as essential to the safe and skilful Physician under the Equator, as at the Poles ; and admitting too, that these general principles can be equally acquired at any medical College, be its situation where it may, still would you not expect a marked difference between the information given here at the South and that at the north, on the diseases to which the *negro* is most subject. Where would you go to study with most profit, his peculiar habits, the causes, progress, and more especially the proper *treatment* of his *particular affections* ! Would it be among the Abolitionists

of the North, the Colonizationists of the West ; or would it not rather be *here*, in this his native place, the sunny South, where in despite of abuses and insults heaped upon us, he is better clothed, fed and provided for ? Now the blacks comprise about one half of our entire population ; in some of our adjoining States they even outnumber the whites, and they are precisely that class of our community first committed to the professional care of the *young* physician. Self-interest then, and the pure dictates of humanity, conspire to urge upon you the importance of this subject, the acquisition of that knowledge at home which you can never obtain abroad to the same advantage.

Let me not however be misapprehended. I would not be understood as undervaluing the medical Schools of other sections of our country, or as even drawing invidious comparisons. I hope I would not be so recreant to every sense of justice, nor so destitute of every feeling of gratitude. All that is intended by the remarks on this subject, is to impress upon you not only the propriety in the very nature of things, but the importance, even the *necessity* of acquiring as far as practicable, your medical Education at the South. The knowledge of Medicine which you can obtain here or in Charleston, will but the better prepare you to profit by what may be presented you abroad. But in your visit to the North, permit me to make one suggestion, abundantly confirmed both by reason and experience. It is this, more benefit can be derived there by southern Students, from attending a summer course of lectures, than from those delivered during the winter. Besides the rooms being less crowded and the greater length of the days, the Hospitals can then be visited with much greater advantage. There is far more time in the summer for observation and research, and the diseases of that season will approach much nearer the *type* and *character* of our *own*.

So far, however, from rendering myself obnoxious to the charge of illiberality by what has been said, or of referring to subjects calculated to excite prejudice against medical Institutions situated in other sections of our country, I have even purposely avoided alluding to the out-breaking of feeling last winter, in opposition to the whole southern medical Students in the City of *brotherly love*, or to the recent unhappy disclosures about the oldest school of the West. So far too, from discouraging

you from visiting other Colleges and Universities where our science is taught, I can but wish that each and every one of you may not only enjoy all the advantages and privileges possessed by our country, but those also which exist in foreign Lands. But when you do go forth into the world, I would have you fully prepared to profit by all you may observe in the profession while absent, and convert every fact you may receive abroad to usefulness in your practice at home—carrying with you not only Southern feelings and republican principles, but American, Southern *theories* of Medicine.

Some consideration too with a southern Student of medicine is the congeniality of our climate compared with the rigors of a northern winter. There are here not only fewer temptations to dissipation, less to attract attention from study, but there is also a better security for the continuance of health. We are actually capable of affecting more at *home*, in the way of preparation for the important duties of life, than we can any where else.

Another reason why a Southern Institution of medicine should be patronised by her own citizens, is the improvement it will necessarily induce in the science, for the cultivation of which it has been established. Its immediate privileges, though confined to a few, will be of essential benefit to the whole community. It offers advantages to all connected with the profession, more especially to Students; gives an impulse to its cultivators; elevates its character; and sends out an influence which will be felt in the remotest regions. No one can calculate the value of the impression already made in the science throughout our Southern States, by the Schools of Charleston and Augusta; nor predict the inestimable blessings they are destined to confer upon our people, sustained as they now are in the good work, by the extensive circulation of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal. Were now, I would ask, the necessity for either patients going North to derive the full benefits of the healing art, or of Students to obtain a complete medical Education?

And where, Gentlemen, else than *here*, does there exist a greater necessity for the creation and endowment of just such an Institution, as this is designed to be, for the good of the Medical profession, and the safety and welfare of Society?

Here, where Medicine was degraded by the last Legislature of Georgia, to the abject condition of the vilest, murderous and



most nefarious trade, by an association with mercenary venders of patent-rights and other nostrums, of the most specious but grossest imposition upon a too confiding and too credulous public—here, where Medicine which had engaged some of the best and most talented in every age and country, and been respected, honored and cherished by the laws of every civilized nation under the sun, was publicly declared by a solemn and deliberate act of the Legislature, to be no longer deserving its fostering care and protection—here, where Medicine is not acknowledged by the laws of the land to be a science, and where there are no restraints to its abuse in practice, where it is denied being worthy of study, and its profession daily ceasing to be honorable; its accumulated facts and learning pronounced to be useless, and the whole science taught to be comprehended in a patented pill, a vegetable powder, or boiling water—and all this by a State which had just appropriated thirty-five thousand dollars to endow a College, for the cultivation of this very rejected science of Medicine. Nothing it seems can equal the folly of this act of the last Legislature, but the height of its own inconsistency. Another such, and the moralist might have appropriated to Georgia, the interrogatories of an ancient Prophet of Israel, who when mourning over the desolations of his country, exclaimed, is there no *balm* in Gilead, is there no Physician there?

As Georgians, Southern men, real Students of Medicine, you are called upon to sustain this much abused, but little comprehended, this neglected and now degraded, this noble, this God-like Profession. And is it not essential to study man, before being qualified to practice Medicine? The Author of the Universe, when he bowed the heavens and came down upon the earth, as the Saviour of mankind, delighted while he tabernacled in the flesh, to heal the sick, restore the blind and relieve the lame. As the Creator of man, He had of course the most intimate and perfect knowledge of his very wonderful and complicated structure. We read indeed in holy writ, that supernatural power to cure diseases, was given to the immediate followers and disciples of our Lord and Master; but we have also been taught to believe, that the day of miracles has long since ceased. Men, however, have arisen in the nineteenth century, who if they have not discovered the *royal*, at least have invented all



easy and gilded road to the hill of Medical science, on which too, its travellers are rapidly, if not recklessly, propelled by the present popular locomotive agent. This system of medicine acts in unison with that spirit of the day, now threatening our country with the destruction of all order in society ; the spirit of agrarian mobocracy. It denies the necessity for study or application to the arts and sciences ; it declares all knowledge to be intuitive ; it would destroy all distinctions among men, and place the ignorant and the wise, the dolt and the talented, the sluggard and the industrious upon the same footing. It is at variance with reason, common sense and the natural order of things ; it sets at defiance all philosophy ; it makes even the creature arrogate superior power and attributes to the Creator, for we know God made man ere He cured his diseases. No, Gentlemen, whatever others may think and practice on this subject, we act *here* upon the principle and axiom, that it is impossible for him who has no knowledge of man, to know medicine. And relying upon your support, and the good sense and intelligence of our people, we will proceed to instruct you to the utmost of our preparations and abilities, in this much persecuted and slandered, but most benevolent and useful science ; teaching you that Profession, which our Saviour honored with its exercise when *going about doing good*.



## MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA.

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AUGUSTA, JULY, 1838.

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THE Trustees would respectfully call the attention of the Profession, and of the public in general, to the Medical College of Georgia, whose course of instruction, will as usual be resumed in autumn. And in doing so, they must be permitted to testify to the merit of their Faculty, and to the perfection of their arrangements for imparting knowledge. Composed, as is the Faculty, of gentlemen of acknowledged ability, of laudable ambition, of untiring zeal, and of ripened experience in the practice of their profession, as well as in the art of teaching, the trustees hesitate not, to pronounce it equal in efficiency to any similar body in the country. The buildings, amphitheatres, anatomical cabinet, chemical apparatus, &c. are all in complete order, and on a scale of excellence that would do honor to any State Institution. The conveniences for the practical study of anatomy, are more than adequate to the wants of the class.

With these claims, the Trustees confidently appeal for patronage to southern students of medicine and to their advisers. The Medical College of Georgia has now been in successful opera-

tion six years, and each returning season bears evidence of its usefulness and growing importance to the State, by whose liberality it is fostered. The Trustees, in the discharge of their trust, have had constantly in view, the interest, honor, and welfare of Georgia, and of the South, and they have every reason to feel assured, that their efforts will receive the full approbation of their fellow-citizens.

Motives of economy and expediency have induced the Trustees to reduce the session to four months, as in other institutions. The amount of the fees is also diminished by the resignation of Dr. Cunningham, whose chair will be filled by the Professor of Institutes, and by the assumption of the Demonstratorship by Dr. Newton, who has exchanged chairs with Dr. Dugas. By the latter arrangement the entire class will have free access to the dissecting rooms without additional charge.

The Professors of Chemistry and Anatomy, Drs Davis and Newton, devote their whole time to the College—an important feature in this Institution.

The course of Lectures will be commenced on the 12th day of November, and be terminated on the first Saturday in March. They will be delivered as follows, viz.—by

G. M. NEWTON, M. D.	On Anatomy.
L. A. DUGAS, M. D.	On Physiology and Pathological Anatomy.
CHARLES DAVIS, M. D.	On Chemistry and Pharmacy.
JOSEPH A. EVE, M. D.	On Therapeutics and Materia Medica.
L. D. FORD, M. D.	On the Institutes and Practice of Medicine.
PAUL F. EVE, M. D.	On the Principles and Practice of Surgery.
MILTON ANTONY, M. D.	On Obstetrics and the Diseases of Women and Infants.

The Professor of Anatomy will superintend the Dissecting Room in person, and discharge the duties of Demonstrator without additional fee. The fees for the full course will be \$~~100~~ 115— Students attending this institution for the first time, will pay for matriculation \$5.

#### *Qualifications for the Degree.*

“No student shall be an eligible candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine, until he shall have attended two full courses of Lectures in this, or one in this, and one in some other respectable medical institution, in addition to the usual private reading in medicine; and shall have delivered to the Dean of the Faculty, an original Thesis on some medical subject, one month previous to the annual commencement. In no case shall a student of immoral character be admitted to examination.”